



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

Let's Get Missional: Reorganizing ECCT and Why it Matters

Governance

Last week we took a look at new features in our reorganization of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT): Ministry Networks, Regions, and Region Missionaries. This week we consider our instruments for governance of ECCT.

Did you know that the word "Episcopal" comes from the Greek word for "overseer" – in the sense of someone who surveys the landscape? That tells us all that our bishops watch over our collective witness of 168 parishes and worshiping communities in Connecticut. They work with the lay leaders, deacons, and priests to govern this collective witness, and we have two main structures for this. *These are our:*

Annual Convention, which meets to make decisions together about our common life and common resources. Each parish sends two elected lay delegates to Convention. All ECCT clergy attend unless excused, in writing, from the bishops. The place for Convention changes each year, as ECCT strives to honor various sections of the state and meet where the facilities are large enough to house us. Convention is a time to conduct our business as well as to dream with and learn from folks from all over Connecticut.

Mission Council. This is NEW. You may have heard of the Executive Council (or before that, BDEC, Bishop and Diocesan Executive Council) and board of the Missionary Society. These older bodies are being replaced by the Mission Council. Like its predecessors, it serves as the governing body between Annual Conventions. Unlike its predecessors, its membership is different and its members are there to serve the whole of ECCT rather than a smaller constituency.

The Mission Council will include the Bishops and Officers of ECCT (such as the Treasurer, Chancellor, Secretary of Convention and Secretary of ECCT) and 21 additional members with voice and vote:

- 9 members elected by Convention from Ministry Networks (introduced in our first email)
- 12 members selected from within the six geographical Regions defined by the TREC-CT work: one lay person and one priest or deacon from each Region.

So, what's it to us, and why should we care?

Glad you asked! Here are some things to consider that will proceed from the Annual Convention and the new Mission Council that will affect each of us:

- We'll have a lively body of very active people coming together regularly to dream, to wonder, to plan, and to engage the joyful work of becoming disciples and apostles.
- We'll have movers and shakers to help us consider our common resources for ministry. They'll hear about our local ministry dreams and needs and do their best to help make things happen.



Could it be that participating in Mission Council is an opportunity for you to serve ECCT in a new way?

For now that's all the heavy stuff we'll put out in this email.
Next week we look at our upcoming Region Convocations.

QUESTIONS? More info is at episcopalct.org/t3/

T3 team members are working with local leaders in each Region to determine Convocation details including exact times, location, and format. The information will be publicized once those are set.

T3 (TREC-CT 3.0 Transition) team members: The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, the Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, the Rev. Sandra Cosman, the Rev. Adam Yates, Brad Babbitt, the Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp, Canon Karin Hamilton, the Rev. Marilyn Anderson, the Rev. John Burton, Clint Dixon, the Rev. Jack Gilpin, Jane Hale, the Rev. Rowena Kemp, the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, Cathy Schrull, Shirley Wick, Valzie Peterkin, Deacon Diane Peterson, Deacon Don Richie. Communication subgroup: The Rev. Marilyn Anderson, Canon Karin Hamilton, Cathy Schrull (chair).